

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1. Please cancel Claims 3-12 without prejudice. Please add Claim 17. All presently pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an extract of Cortex Eucommiae for activating alkaline phosphatase in osteoblast cells of a living being to induce differentiation and mineralization of the osteoblast cells to thereby promote ~~for promoting~~ regeneration of hard tissues comprising an extract of Cortex Eucommiae.

2. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein said extract of Cortex Eucommiae is obtained from extraction with water.

3-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition is used to prevent/treat a hard tissue related disease.

14. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 13 wherein said hard tissue related disease is an osteoporosis.

15. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 13 wherein said hard tissue related disease is a periodontal disease accompanied by alveolar bone destruction.

16. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition is used to stimulate growth of children.

17. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition activates ERK2 in the osteoblast cells of the living being to facilitate induction of the differentiation and mineralization of the osteoblast cells.